

LAST EDITION

GILROY A WITNESS

Examined by Ivins as to Plack's Regime in the County Clerk's Office.

End of the Committee's Attack Upon the Excise Board.

Rev. Howard Crosby a Breezy Witness on the Saloon Question.

The Fassett-IVins investigation continued their investigation of the methods and workings of the excise law, today, with Rev. Howard Crosby, the apostle of high license for New York, as the chief witness.

Commissioner of Public Works and ex-Deputy County Clerk Thomas F. Gilroy was on hand half an hour before the Albany investigators appeared. He had a subpoena in his pocket and an interrogation point on his forehead. He was at a loss to know why he was called as a witness till inquirer Ivins came in.

Mr. Ivins explained that he wanted Mr. Gilroy to expound the workings of the County Clerk's office under the recent law making it a salaried office instead of one dependent on fees for its management.

I want to find out whether the expectations of the framers of that law, the Roosevelt Committee, had been realized," said the inquirer.

"Well, I can tell you they haven't. The law resulted in the contraction of the many salaried companies, and they do the work which had previously been done by the County Clerk's office, thus depriving the county of the fees for such services."

Mr. Gilroy was Deputy County Clerk under James A. Plack when he had been subordinated and will be called from his retirement to testify.

Mr. Gilroy was excused and informed that he would be sent for when wanted, which Mr. Ivins said would be to-day.

I don't see that Messrs. Fassett, Ivins and Tom Platt are getting much comfort out of their investigation," said Commissioner Gilroy. "They seem to be beating."

I don't believe they can make any capital against Tammany Hall, for in an experience of twenty-five years I never knew a time when the municipal departments were run in a manner so business-like."

Mr. Crosby was on hand, too, but it was 10.45 when the committee got together.

Dr. Crosby, testifying in an unassuming, polite style, said that he was a clergyman, living in East Nineteenth street. That for thirty years he had been the president of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, an organization which paid particular attention to the regulation of the sale of liquors, and necessitated his constant intimacy with the Excise Department. He was selected by the Governor as one of the committee to frame a law on the subject of license for the Legislature.

Then Dr. Crosby pointed out some abuses. He declared that the rule of the Board limiting the number of saloons to not more than two of any four corners, which it had been rigidly adhered to by former Boards, had been grossly disregarded by the present Board.

This was like sweet music to the ears of the chief inquirer and he had Dr. Crosby repeat it.

"What suggestions would you make for the betterment of the present system?" Dr. Ivins asked.

"I would have something more straightforward in the matter of Sunday closing of drinking places. It is openly acknowledged that every saloon-keeper who chooses keeps his drinking-place open and sells liquors."

ALL DAY RUNDAY.

Five prominent liquor dealers frankly told Mr. Ivins that they kept their stores open on Sunday and when I asked them if they saw nothing wrong in this violating the law, replied: "Why, Dr. Crosby, that is only a statute law. That is not a moral law."

Was your conversation of such a nature as to lead you to conclude that you were among the three of the five, though I do not believe I could identify either of them and I do not know where their places of business are. The three were Mr. Cavanagh, a Mr. Kane and—um—um—well, I do not recall it now."

"I think if a law could be passed taking the matter of the number of licenses and their location out of the discretion of the Board of Excise and regulating the police supervision, it would make a wide improvement."

Ex-Judge Browne asked a few questions. Dr. Crosby said to the first that there were more licensed saloons under the present Board than under the old Board. But it was found that he meant "licenses of drinking places" and not of "saloons," as the term is technically.

Can you state accurately the excess of licenses issued by this Board as compared with the number of the old Board?" asked Judge Browne.

"I think there were 8,511 under the old Board, and that the increase was a few hundred."

Are you aware that no new license is issued except to an applicant who surrenders an old license?"

Dr. Crosby was not aware of that fact.

If so informed would you still say that there was an increase of licenses by the new Board?"

Dr. Crosby would consider the matter.

Are you aware that there were many dealers who, without license, were under the old Board delivering beer in bottles to houses all over town?" demanded Judge Browne, and that these men thought they were entitled to do so.

Dr. Crosby was not aware.

Are you aware that the old Board men were selling liquors on boats and barges plying the waters about New York without license?"

Dr. Crosby was not aware.

Are you aware that the new Board informed their holders and bargemen that they must obtain their license, and being aware of it, would not look unfavorably upon the increase in the number of licenses?"

Dr. Crosby thought those dealers should be regulated.

Do you consider the mandamus set of 1887 of no effect?"

"Virtually it is of no effect," replied Dr. Crosby.

WHO'LL BELL TAMMANY'S CAT?

Unavailing Tripartite Search for a Mayoralty Candidate.

Conferees Again in Session—The P. M. L. Convention To-Night.

For the third time the three Conference committees of the anti-Tammany factions gathered at the Hotel Brunswick this morning.

Two nights and one day had been spent in an attempt to choose on a ticket, and the conferees had finally decided at the last moment that Gustav H. Schwab, a re-elected Mugwump Republican, would do for the Mayoralty candidate.

The League holds its Convention to-night, and the conferees, who are a partner of Herman Oelrichs, another of the proposed candidates, is one of the conferees, and was said this morning to have declared that he would not accept the honor. He was suggested by the County Democratic delegation.

But three of the Republican conferees were on hand at 11 o'clock. Two of those were, however, the League's William Broadbent and N. A. Prentiss, representing Col. Cruger. The other was Secretary William H. Bellamy.

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THIEVES WITH REAL GENIUS.

A Pair of Adroit Till-Tappers Run Down by Byrnes's Men.

Long List of Victims and the Story of How They Were Plundered.

Detestations of Inspector Byrnes's staff have in custody at Police Headquarters a brace of phenomenal thieves in whom many storekeepers in this city feel a personal interest. They have been remanded by Justice Tier-

Complaints of storekeepers that their money-drawers have been robbed have come so frequently to Police Headquarters of late that it became evident, when such descriptions as the robbed merchants were able to give of the thieves pointed to the same individuals, though their methods varied, that an organized gang was at work among the stores and reaping a golden harvest. Detectives McCauley, Golden and Dorie were set on the trail of the band, with orders to run it down if it took all winter.

Several nights passed when the detectives were waiting their notes. During that time the complaints kept coming in, presenting always some novel feature specially fitted to the emergencies that showed the thieves to be exceptionally smart at their business.

The case of Mr. Sawman, a bottler at 54 Third avenue, illustrated the thieves' manner of working under difficulties. Mr. Sawman was in his store with his son the morning of Sept. 10 and had occasion to change a \$20 bill for a dollar. As he was going out the latter remarked that a friend of his was going to be married that night, and giving him the bill he said to him to take it to the bride.

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